**CANADA:** From a meteorological perspective, the Saguenay-Lac Saint Jean region of Quebec shows some remnants of abnormally dry conditions; however, recent weather has been cool and wet. In northwest Ontario the Dryden and Kenora districts are in low flow conditions and half the stations in the region reported below 80% of the average precipitation for May. This area is classified as a moderate drought (D1) to abnormally dry (D0).

Much of the Prairie provinces (>70% of the agricultural land base) is experiencing average or better-than-average rainfall conditions. The agricultural regions that are abnormally dry or in moderate drought include High Level and Grande Prairie westward into the Peace River region of BC and Pincher Creek in Alberta; northern agricultural regions of Saskatchewan; northwest and northern Interlake regions of Manitoba (Swan River, Dauphin and Gimli areas). Some on-farm water shortages are anticipated in the northwest agricultural region of Manitoba and some water shortages are occurring in the Interlake region of Manitoba. Below-average flow volumes are forecast for the Milk River basin in Alberta, but, precipitation in the basin has been near average. The exceptional drought conditions that were experienced in Alberta and Saskatchewan in the past few years have left some producers in the northern agricultural regions of these provinces with some water supply shortages, low carry over on pastures, and lower-than-average hay production potential.

In British Columbia, the province indicates that even if normal weather conditions occur during the summer, streamflows and lake levels in the southern two-thirds of the province will remain below normal during the coming months. The plateau areas of the Middle Fraser, Okanagan, Similkameen, and Lower Mainland may experience water shortages unless the summer is wetter than normal. All water users in those areas are being advised to use water conservation measures.

**UNITED STATES:** May was a wet (25$^{th}$ wettest) and stormy month for most of the country, with record outbreaks of tornadoes grabbing much of the attention early on. According to NOAA's Storm Prediction Center, the preliminary May total was 562 tornadoes, which easily doubled the May 3-year average of 229. May also came in as the 20$^{th}$ warmest in the 1895 to present record. Most of the northern United States, however, reported a cool May, with the coolest departures occurring in the central Plains and the upper Midwest. The warmest temperature anomalies were reported in the Intermountain West, Desert Southwest, Texas and the Gulf Coast states from Louisiana to Florida. The cooler and wetter weather has led to a general easing of conditions over the past month over the country's mid-section as all but a little severe drought (D2) and extreme drought (D3) remains in the northern plains. At the end of the month, no drought conditions were being depicted in the lower Great Lakes region in contrast to the April period, when we saw widespread moderate (D1) and severe (D2) drought.

Precipitation for the month was normal to above normal for all but parts of the South and Southwest, which were drier than average. Consequently, the high temperatures, along with below-normal precipitation, have led to some deterioration in the southern Plains, going from D0 to D2 across parts of southern Oklahoma, southern and western Texas and Louisiana. In fact, Texas is coming off its second driest spring on record. People in the South and Southwest will be watching anxiously to see if the trend toward La Niña continues as the latest ENSO diagnostic

discussion indicates. (see
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/index.html)

Hawaii has also seen a return of severe drought (D2) conditions on the Big Island after somewhat recovering last year from a long-term multi-year drought. Abnormally dry (D0) conditions also continued to expand slightly in Alaska's southern interior, mostly because of warmer than average temperatures during the month.

**MEXICO:** Drought conditions in Mexico showed only minor changes in May. In northwest Mexico, May is normally the driest month of the year, and this was also the case for May 2003. Consequently, drought indices in this region remained unchanged from those observed in April, with extreme drought conditions (D3) noted in southeast Sonora, northern Sinaloa and far western Chihuahua. Moderate to severe drought conditions in northwest Mexico developed last fall and strengthened by late winter as a quickly weakening El Niño failed to provide above-normal rainfall in this region. In north central and northeast Mexico, May rainfall was very spotty, with some areas receiving 150% of normal rainfall while other areas received virtually no rainfall. Consequently, the distribution of drought has become less uniform in north central and northeast Mexico, with some improvement noted in moisture conditions in sections of Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and northern Tamaulipas.

In far southern and southeast Mexico, the start of the monsoon season was generally delayed by two weeks. This initial slow start to the summer rainy season led to many areas receiving less than 25% of their normal May rainfall; consequently, moderate drought (D2) conditions continued to spread from southern Tamaulipas into central Mexico and south to Oaxaca. However, rains at the very end of May lessened the spread of drought conditions in Tabasco, Campeche and southern Chiapas.